

March 29, 2020
Unit 17 • Session 3
The Temple Was Rebuilt

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Ezra 4–6; Haggai

STORY POINT:

God's people rebuilt the temple to glorify God.

KEY PASSAGE:

Jeremiah 29:11

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

How is Jesus the perfect Prophet? Jesus perfectly reveals God the Father and fulfills what the prophets spoke.



The BIBLE Story
The Temple Was Rebuilt

Ezra 4–6; Haggai

After living in Babylon for 70 years, God's people were home! A group had returned to Jerusalem to rebuild God's temple. They had started the work, but their neighbors didn't want them to rebuild the temple, so they stopped building. The people made excuses. "Maybe it isn't the right time to rebuild the temple," they said. They thought that because the task was difficult, maybe God didn't want them to do it.

God sent the prophets Haggai and Zechariah to encourage the people. So the leaders—Zerubbabel and Joshua—started working on the temple again. At this time, Darius (duh RIGH uhs), the king of Persia, ruled over the land of Judah. The king was in charge of so much land, he put governors in charge of some of the land. A governor named Tattenai (TAT ih nigh) noticed God's people had started to rebuild the temple again.

Tattenai talked to Zerubbabel and the others working on the temple. "Do you have permission to rebuild this temple?" Tattenai asked. The workers said, "We do."

Tattenai sent a report to King Darius. This is what Tattenai's letter to King Darius said: "To Darius the king—This letter is to tell you that the people in Judah are building the temple of the great God. They said King Cyrus gave them permission to rebuild the temple. Please search the royal records to see if this is true."

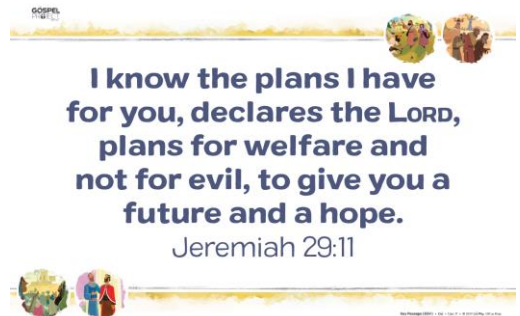
King Darius's officials searched the royal records for Cyrus's order. They found it—a scroll with a record from King Cyrus. This is what was written on the scroll: "Let God's temple be rebuilt. It will be a place to offer sacrifices. Let its foundation be rebuilt." King Cyrus had also ordered for the cost of building the temple to be paid for out of the royal treasury.

So King Darius sent a letter back to Tattenai. He gave this order: "Stay away from the workers in Jerusalem. Don't bother them or try to stop them. Give them whatever they need."

Tattenai and the other officials obeyed King Darius's order. The Jewish leaders kept building, and they finally finished the temple of God! The people celebrated and made offerings to God. They chose priests and assistants to serve in the temple.

Then God's people celebrated the Passover. God's people were so happy. Now the temple of God was finally complete.

Christ Connection: God's people rebuilt the temple so they would have a place to worship God. Years later, God sent His Son, Jesus, to be with His people. Now God dwells not in the temple, but directly with His people. Jesus provided something better than the temple; He gives us Himself.



ACTIVITIES TO DO WITH YOUR CHILDREN

Message from the prophets

Instruct your family to sit down in a line, each facing forward. Give the person at the front of the line a piece of paper and a pencil. Write *BIBLE* on a piece of paper and give it to the person at the back of the line. The person at the back of the line will then trace with his finger the letter B on the back of the person in front of him. The second person will then trace the letter she felt onto the back of the person in front of her and so on down the line. The first person in the line will write the letter he feels on the piece of paper. Continue this way until the first person writes all the letters. Did you communicate and write the word *BIBLE* successfully?

SAY • Was it hard to decipher the message just one letter at a time? In our story today, we will hear about a prophet named Haggai. Thankfully God didn't communicate with Haggai just one letter at a time! God's message to His people in today's story would encourage them to do something hard.

Glory to God

Read a list of actions. Instruct family members to jump up with their hands outstretched if they think the action glorifies God. Guide them to crouch down low if it doesn't. (Examples: sharing a toy with a friend, telling a lie, being a good listener to a friend, spreading gossip about someone else, and so forth)

SAY • Not everything we do brings glory to God. In today's story we'll hear that **God's people rebuilt the temple to glorify God.**

Key passage activity

Read the key passage card a couple times and say it together. Then hide the card. Stand in a circle. Say the first word of the key passage and then toss a ball of yarn to another person in the circle while still holding the end of the yarn. The second person will say the second word before tossing the yarn ball to someone else while holding a bit of the yarn. Continue this way until the whole verse has been said. Then challenge your family to untangle themselves!

Bible Story Review

Ask the following questions. Lead your family to discuss:

To which city did God's people return? (*Jerusalem, Ezra 1:2*)

Who was the king of Persia when God's people began rebuilding the temple? (*Darius, Ezra 4:24*)

What festival did the Jews celebrate when the temple was complete? (*Passover, Ezra 6:19*)

How did building the temple bring glory to God? *Guide the kids to understand that the temple was meant to be a place where God's people worshiped Him. True worship of God glorifies Him. Additionally, enemies were trying to prevent them from finishing, so by overcoming those obstacles, God's people showed God's power to support and guide them.*

The Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit lives inside of Christians. How does this change our behavior? *Help the kids see that everyone is made in God's image. We ought to respect one another and ourselves. We should treat each other with dignity, compassion, and love. Because we are vessels of the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to love with God's love.*

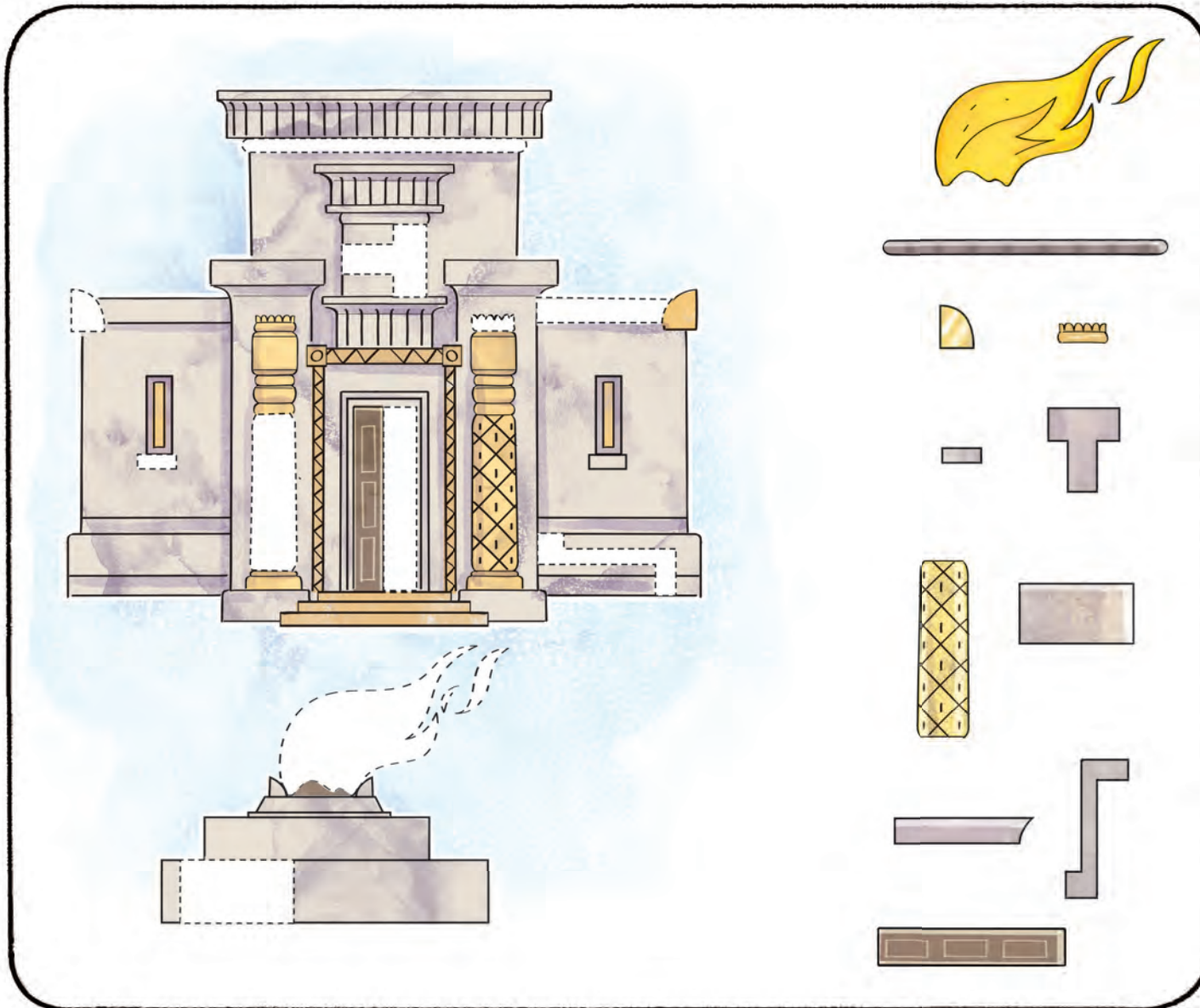
How can you encourage someone who is suffering and ready to give up hope? *Explain that we can offer encouragement from God's Word. Someday, Jesus will return to restore the whole earth and provide a perfect place for us to live and worship Him forever. We face difficult times with hope because of Jesus' promises.*

SAY • **God's people rebuilt the temple to glorify God.** They almost quit, but God sent prophets like Haggai to encourage them to keep going. Thankfully, now that Jesus has come, the temple isn't necessary. We can meet with God anywhere simply through prayer!

Prayer Time: Thank God for meeting us anywhere, any time.

Build It Back

INSTRUCTIONS: Draw lines to match each blank in the temple to the piece that is missing.



Younger Kids Activity Pages

Unit 17 • Session 3

The Temple Was Rebuilt

BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- God's people had stopped building the temple because they were afraid of the surrounding nations.
- God sent prophets to encourage them to keep building.
- God's people rebuilt the temple to glorify God.

KEY PASSAGE: Jeremiah 29:11

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- How is Jesus the perfect Prophet? Jesus perfectly reveals God the Father and fulfills what the prophets spoke.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

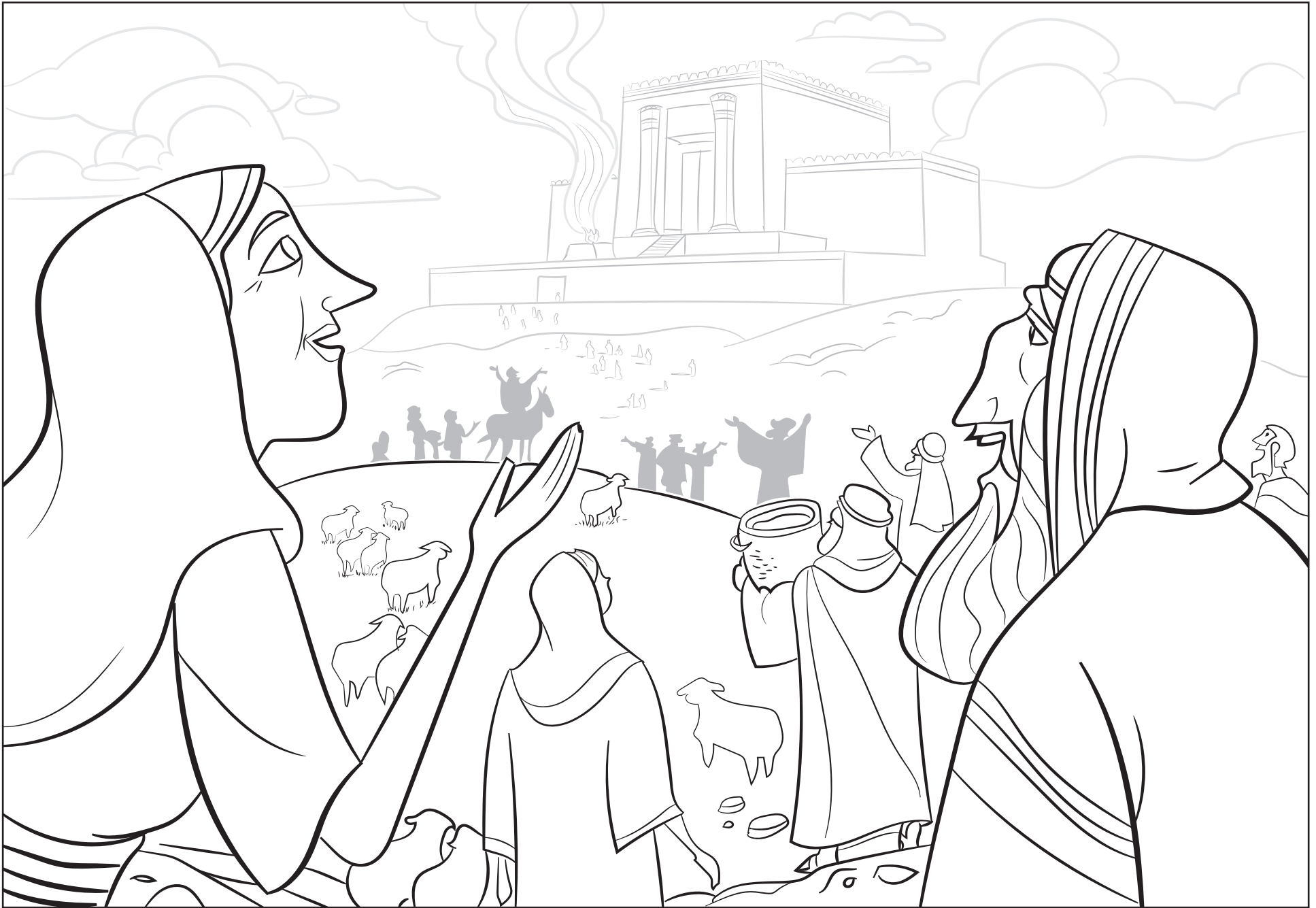
- Why was the temple so important for God's people?
- Why don't we have a temple we must worship in today?
- How can we have God with us all the time?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- Work with your family to build a structure out of uncooked spaghetti noodles and mini marshmallows. Set goals like how tall the structure will be or how much weight it will hold. Discuss the purpose of the temple and how Jesus changed it.



DOWNLOAD the
LIFEWAY KIDS APP



Unit 17—Preschool Memory Verse



**I know the plans I have
for you ... plans ... to give
you a future and a hope.**

Jeremiah 29:11



Unit 17—Uptown Memory Verse



**I know the plans I have
for you, declares the LORD,
plans for welfare and
not for evil, to give you a
future and a hope.**

Jeremiah 29:11





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